

Food, Nutrition and Morbidity: Some Observations Among Four Tribal Groups of South India

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ABSTRACT It is an established fact that the socio-economic condition of a community determines the quality of diet and consequently the morbidity pattern of the community. This paper is based on a socio-economic and diet survey among four tribal groups namely Jatapu, Savara, Gadaba and Kondadora inhabiting two agency blocks of Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh of South India. These tribals are mainly agriculturists and labourers and they follow the traditional method of cultivation which results in poor production. The diet intake also show a deficiency in nutrition among pre-school children, and the women are deficient in B-carotene vitamin C and riboflavin. The morbidity data indicates that scabies, dermatitis, infection and infestation are the major health problems in the area.